



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

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USAID and U.S. Geological Survey Provide Earthquake Training

In January 2013, USAID and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in collaboration with the Government of Burma Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) and the Myanmar Engineering Society (MES), will conduct the first training of its kind to improve the skills and knowledge of professionals monitoring and analyzing earthquakes in Burma. Two senior seismologists from the USGS, which monitors and analyzes earthquakes in the U.S. and around the world, will lead two workshops for professionals from the Burmese government, academia, and organizations that study and report on earthquakes in the country. Dr. Susan Hough and Dr. David Boore will facilitate the first workshop in Rangoon between January 21 and 25, hosted at the MES facility at the Hlaing University campus. The first workshop, an introduction to seismology for earthquake professionals, will provide a broad introduction to seismology, including plate tectonics, seismic hazard assessment, and other topics. Dr. Hough and Dr. Boore will then facilitate an advanced workshop in Burma's capital city of Nay Pyi Taw from January 28 to 31, focusing on strong motion engineering seismology.

In addition, USAID and the USGS are working with DMH and MES to develop a long-term program strategy to improve earthquake preparedness in Burma. USAID and the USGS are developing plans for upgrading the country's seismic monitoring network with improved equipment and support systems. USAID and the USGS are also discussing other plans with DMH and MES to strengthen the country's capacity to prepare for earthquakes.

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